

By: Lopez of Bexar, et al.

H.B. No. 290

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to assistance for tuition and fees at postsecondary educational institutions for certain members of the Texas military forces.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Sections 54.345(b) and (c), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) An institution of higher education shall exempt a person certified by the adjutant general as described by Subsection (a) from the payment of tuition for the semester credit hours for which the person enrolls, not to exceed 15 [~~12~~] semester credit hours. If the person is not charged tuition at the rate provided for other Texas residents, the amount of the exemption may not exceed the amount of tuition the person would be charged as a Texas resident for the number of semester credit hours for which the person enrolls, not to exceed 15 [~~12~~] semester credit hours.

(c) An institution of higher education shall exempt a person who receives an exemption from tuition under Subsection (b) from the payment of all mandatory fees for any semester or term in which the person receives the tuition exemption.

SECTION 2. Sections 437.226(c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (i), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(c) The adjutant general shall grant assistance for tuition and mandatory fees under this section to eligible service members,

1 in an amount not to exceed the amount provided in the General
2 Appropriations Act. The adjutant general may apportion the number
3 of assistance awards among the components of the Texas military
4 forces necessary to meet the recruitment and retention needs of
5 those components. The number of assistance awards made to members
6 of the Texas State Guard may not exceed 45 [~~30~~] for any semester or
7 term unless the adjutant general finds a compelling need for
8 additional awards to members of the Texas State Guard.

9 (d) Assistance for tuition and mandatory fees may be awarded
10 under this section for tuition and mandatory fees charged for any
11 undergraduate or graduate course for any semester or term at an
12 institution of higher education or private or independent
13 institution of higher education, including a vocational or
14 technical course.

15 (e) A service member may not receive assistance for tuition
16 under this section for more than 15 [~~12~~] semester credit hours in
17 any semester or term.

18 (f) A service member may not receive assistance for tuition
19 and mandatory fees under this section for more than seven [~~5~~]
20 academic years or 15 [~~10~~] semesters or terms, whichever occurs
21 first for the service member.

22 (g) Before each semester or term, the department must
23 certify to the appropriate public and private institutions of
24 higher education a list of the service members to whom the adjutant
25 general has awarded assistance for tuition and mandatory fees under
26 this section for that semester or term. The amount of assistance
27 awarded by the adjutant general under this section may not exceed

1 the amount of money available to fund the assistance awards.

2 (i) From money appropriated for purposes of this section,
3 the department shall authorize the comptroller to make a grant to a
4 service member attending a private or independent institution of
5 higher education to whom the adjutant general has awarded
6 assistance for tuition and mandatory fees for the semester or term
7 under this section. The amount of a grant under this subsection is
8 an amount equal to the average amount of reimbursement the
9 department estimates will be paid per student for the same semester
10 or term under Subsection (h).

11 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2025 fall
12 semester.

13 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.